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Subject: Reid Statement on Finance Committee Chairman's Health Insurance Reform Proposal

Please see below for a message from Julia Kenny, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals' chief of staff.

Dear Delegation and staff,

Thank you for your support of the FMAP issue facing Louisiana. Please see the release from Senator Reid this morning.

Our thinking is that, as we thought with the Louisiana FMAP solution, that there will likely be a high volume of states making similar demands. In the release, the Senator did not commit to vote for the bill. Given that, it appears that a window has opened to make our case to the Finance Chair. Louisiana can make a stronger case given our unique situation and that the issue is of a far greater magnitude than Nevada.

We know that this won't take long to circulate to the provider groups in Louisiana, who it seems would logically ask the same thing.

We wanted to give you all a heads up.

On another note, we had a positive meeting with HHS. We will be working on a joint statement with Governor Jindal and Secretary Sebelius to say they are working on the FMAP issue and asking Congress to solve it. That's huge, if the commitment does lead to follow through. Once there is agreement, then we will draft a statement for the delegation's consideration applauding the Secretary and Administration for recognizing the problem and working with Congress to solve it.

Thank you.

Majority Leader Receives Commitment from Committee Chair to Strengthen the Bill for Nevada

September 16, 2009

Washington, D.C. -- Nevada Senator Harry Reid released the following statement regarding the draft health insurance reform proposal released by the Senate Finance Committee chairman this morning. The proposal in its current form would require Nevada to increase Medicaid spending by more than five percent at a time when the state's budget is suffering. Committee Chair, Sen. Max Baucus of Montana committed to Reid that the formula will be changed before the bill is marked up in committee.

"While this draft bill is a good starting point, it needs improvement before it will work for Nevada. During this time of economic crisis, our state cannot afford to shoulder the second highest increase in Medicaid funding. I spoke to the Chair of the Finance Committee and he assured me that this bill will be improved for Nevada before he takes it to the committee for final mark-up next week. Let me be very clear, I will not bring a health insurance reform bill to the Senate floor that is not good for Nevada."